

INDUSTRY 4.0 PLAN 'OUT SOON'

Govt to ensure efficient rollout of 5G networks, says Saifuddin

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MALAYSIA will soon announce its Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) plan and national digital roadmap, including on digital infrastructure and data policy, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah.

He said the government would also ensure an efficient rollout of fifth-generation (5G) networks after achieving a robust 4G platform.

Saifuddin said to date, the country had witnessed 71 5G usage demonstrations led by the private sector, namely Celcom Axiata Bhd, Digi.com Bhd, edotco Group Sdn Bhd, Maxis Bhd, Petroliam Nasional Bhd, Telekom Malaysia Bhd, U Mobile Sdn Bhd and YTL Corp Bhd, across seven states at a total industry investment of RM131 million.

"It is important to note that Malaysia is expediting the improvement of connectivity for both fibre optic and 4G as a means to ensure that the 5G rollout will be done in an efficient and effective manner, thereby benefiting the consumers without a significant increase in cost of service.



Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah says the government is expediting the improvement of connectivity for both fibre optic and fourth-generation mobile networks.
PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

"Such a healthy ecosystem will contribute significantly to the national agenda of Digital Malaysia and, thereby, the national gross domestic product (GDP)," he said at Invest Malaysia 2020 organised by Bursa Malaysia and Macquarie, here, yesterday.

Saifuddin said the role of Industry 4.0 became even more critical in the backdrop of a crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic, with industry players turning to digital solutions.

"As businesses think about restoring operations and building muscle to deal with future crises, digital technologies will be top of mind for many.

"Even as we speak, there are already businesses leveraging Industry 4.0, having implemented

a nerve centre, or control tower, approach to increase end-to-end supply-chain transparency and fast-tracking automation programmes to stem worker shortages.

"Industry 4.0 resonates connectivity, advanced analytics, automation and advanced-manufacturing technologies, helping businesses to transform their operations from production efficiency to customisation.

"Therefore, Malaysia needs to develop resilience and agility to deal with the crisis against the constraints," he said.

Bursa Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar said the impact of 5G on the economy was expected to be substantial, with its deployment acting as a cat-

alyst to the country's productivity and growth.

He said a recent study by the Malaysia Institute of Economic Research showed that 5G had the potential to contribute RM12.7 billion to the country's GDP between 2021 and 2025.

The implementation of 5G was expected to create 39,000 jobs and shift the workforce landscape towards higher-valued skills, he said.

"5G and Industry 4.0 implementations are not just on the near horizon. They are here offering opportunities with the promise of speed and responsiveness that will undoubtedly usher in new products, new services and revolutionary ways of doing things," he added.